

AF 3671

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomihiko AZUMA
Title: SALES SUPPORT SYSTEM AND
METHOD THEREFOR
Appl. No.: 09/921,903
Filing Date: 8/3/2001
Examiner: N. S. Mammen
Art Unit: 3671

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

I hereby certify that the following paper(s) and/or fee along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. PTO SB/08 form (3 references)
3. Postcard

April 15, 2004
Date

Foley & Lardner LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5407
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Blumenthal
#44,740
David A. Blumenthal
Reg. No. 26,257



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form SB08 is a listing of document(s) known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the listed document(s) is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first action but before the mailing date of either a final action or notice of allowance under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), and is accompanied by a statement specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement and that this Statement is being filed within 30 days of receipt of said communication.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

The Examiner in the corresponding Japanese patent application has commented as follows:

- Claims 1-13
- Cited Literature 1
- Remarks

The invention described in Cited Literature 1 and the invention of the present application differ in the point of

transmitting "cargo collection and shipping instructions for designated ordered products aggregating one or more items of customer identification information" from an order placement terminal to a distributor terminal. However, since the invention described in Cited Literature 1 discloses that "shipment processing may also be carried out on a separate system connected over a network" ((0039)), it is found that modifying part of the system configuration so as to transmit instructions from an order placement terminal to a system that performs shipment processing (distributor terminal) without going through a server is a modification that could be easily made by a person skilled in the art.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication H10-162066

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

Fields Searched IPC 7th Edition G06F17/60-
19/00

Prior Art Literature Japanese Unexamined Patent
Application Publication 2002-042005

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication H6-141100

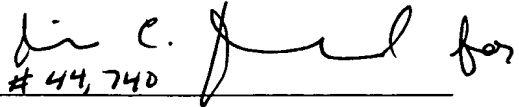
It is believed that the instant information disclosure statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of any Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action. However, if this information disclosure statement is filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action, then applicant(s) hereby request(s) and authorize(s) the PTO to charge the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Applicants respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialled copy of Form SB08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

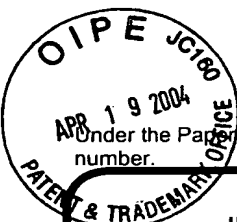
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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5407
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By  # 44,740

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257



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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: April 15, 2004

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/921,903
Filing Date	08/03/2001
First Named Inventor	Tomihiko AZUMA
Group Art Unit	3671
Examiner Name	N. S. Mammen
Attorney Docket Number	048369-0126

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1		JP 10-162066		HITACHI LTD	6/19/1998		Abs
	A2		JP 6-141100		HITACHI LTD	5/20/1994		Abs
	A3		JP 2002-42005		FUJITSU LTD	2/8/2002		Abs

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.